

SC Soil Classifiers Registration Program

SC Department of Natural Resources

Spring/Summer 2006

Letter From the Editor

Greetings from the SC Soil Classifiers Registration Program, and welcome to our first newsletter! We feel it is important to keep the registered soil classifiers and others with an interest in this field updated on information and happenings in the field. Through your work, you are not only safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of the general public, but protecting the natural resources of our state as well. We appreciate your dedication to this field and to preserving the natural beauty that South Carolina has to offer.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it to be a valuable source of information. As always, if you have any concerns or questions regarding Soil Classifying, please feel free to contact me by telephone or E-mail, and I will be glad to help you.

Enjoy your spring and summer!

Sincerely,

Sherri F. Moorer

Coordinator, Professional Licensing

SC Soil Classifiers Registration Program



Enjoy your spring and summer!

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Title and Practice Act

The SC Code of Laws for Soil Classifiers is a Title and Practice Act. This means all individuals who use the term “soil classifier,” advertise or collect fees for soil classifying services must hold a valid South Carolina Landscape Architect License.

Federal, state, and local government agencies are exempt from this requirement.

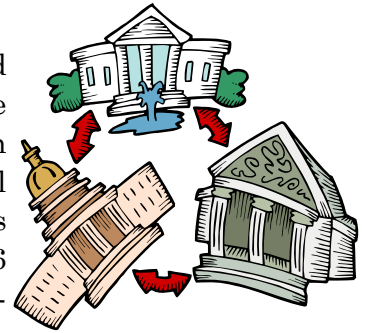
If you witness any violations of this law, please contact the SC Soil Classifiers Program. You will need to provide a written complaint and a copy of all materials in question. All information will be kept confidential.

Special points of interest:

- *New Isolated Wetlands Bill Proposed in 2006 Legislative Session.*
- *Soil Exhibit to open in Smithsonian in 2007–2008.*
- *Requirements to become licensed in SC as a Soil Classifier or certified as a Soil Classifier-In-Training.*

Legislative Actions

A bill has been proposed this legislative session that will enact the SC Isolated Wetlands Act of 2006. This act would provide that isolated wetlands are those that are not regulated by the Federal Clean Water Act, and would establish procedures and criteria for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to issue permits for conducting certain activities in these areas and to monitor permit compliance. The bill was introduced on March 1, 2006 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. For additional information on this bill or to monitor it's progress, please visit the SC Legislature Online at <http://www.scstatehouse.net> . The bill number is S1206.



Legislative Action of Interest

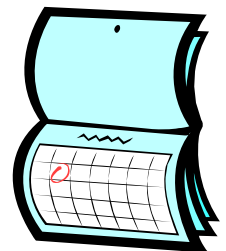
Smithsonian Exhibit

The Soil Science Society of America and the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC are working together to plan a soil exhibit that will feature a display of state soil monoliths. The museum has over six million visitors each year, and the goal of is to educate and advance the understanding of soil and the importance of soil and earth sciences. The exhibit will not only feature the monoliths, but will include an educational, interactive section to help visitors understand how soil is intricately linked to the health of humanity, the environment, and the planet. A traveling exhibit will also be included to reach hundreds of other museums and libraries in other communities. The South Carolina State Soil, Bohicket, is scheduled to appear on this exhibit. Depending on funding, the exhibit should open in 2007 or 2008; however, donations are needed to ensure that it will be available to the public in the proposed time frame. If you would like additional information or would like to make a donation to this valuable cause, please visit the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit website at <http://www.soils.org/smithsonian> .

Office Closing Dates

Please note that our office will be closed in observance of the following State Holidays:

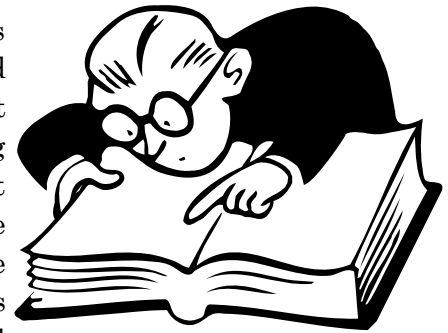
- Wednesday, May 10, 2006 for Confederate Memorial Day.
- Monday, May 29, 2006 for Memorial Day.
- Tuesday, July 4, 2006 for Independence Day.
- Monday, September 4, 2006 for Labor Day.
- Friday, November 10, 2006 for Veteran's Day.
- Thursday and Friday, November 23-24, 2006 for Thanksgiving Day.
- Monday and Tuesday, December 25-26, 2006 for Christmas Day.



State Holidays

Becoming a Registered Soil Classifier in SC

The SC Code of Laws, Section 40-65-10 requires that all individuals wishing to practice soil classifying in this state must become registered through our board. In order to qualify for registration, you must meet the education/experience/examination requirement in our law. According to Section 40-65-120, you must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent one of the natural sciences or an equivalent curriculum approved by the department. You must also have two (2) years of experience under the direct supervision of a registered soil classifier, or somebody who meets the minimum academic and experience requirements of a registered soil classifier, and pass an examination administered by our board on the principles and practice of soil classifying. This examination is given in our office in Columbia, SC during normal business hours. We are not allowed to register through reciprocity with other states at this time, so all applicants for a license to practice soil classifying in SC must meet these minimum requirements.



*Soil Classifying Registration
Requirements in SC*

For additional information on the SC Code of Laws for Soil Classifiers, please visit SC Statehouse Web Site at <http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/t40c065.htm>.

For a list of Soil Classifiers currently registered in SC, please visit our website at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/land/pdfs/SoilRoster.pdf>.

If you have any questions or are interested in receiving an application for a license to practice soil classifying, please contact Sherri Moorner by telephone at (803) 734-9131 or by E-mail at MoorerS@dnr.sc.gov.

Soil Classifier-In-Training Certification

Individuals that are entering the field of soil classifying may apply for certification as a Soil Classifier-In-Training. In order to qualify, you must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a curriculum approved by the department. If your degree is not approved by the department, you can still apply and take the examination if you have a specific record of four (4) years of experience, two (2) of which must be under the direct supervision of a registered soil classifier or an individual that meets the minimum academic and experience standards of a registered soil classifier. You must also pass an examination on the fundamentals of soil classification. These exams are given at our office in Columbia, SC during normal business hours.



*Soil Classifier-In-
Training Certification*

Soil Classifier-In-Training Certification is valid for a period of two (2) years. At this time, you may apply for a license to practice soil classifying if you meet the minimum education, experience, and examination requirements as described above.

If you are interested in receiving an application to become certified as a Soil Classifier-In-Training, please contact Sherri Moorner by telephone at (803) 734-9131 or by E-mail at MoorerS@dnr.sc.gov.

SC Department of Natural Resources

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<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/land/SoilRegis/SoilLicense.html>

Working for you naturally.



The SC Soil Classifiers Registration Program is administered through the SC Department of Natural Resources—Land, Water and Conservation Division. Mr. John Frampton is the Director of the SC Department of Natural Resources, and Mr. Alfred Vang is the Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division.

Sherri F. Moorer is the Coordinator of Professional Licensing, and M. Diane VanDerHoff is the Director of Professional Licensing. Our office is located in Columbia, SC, and is open Monday—Friday, 8:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.

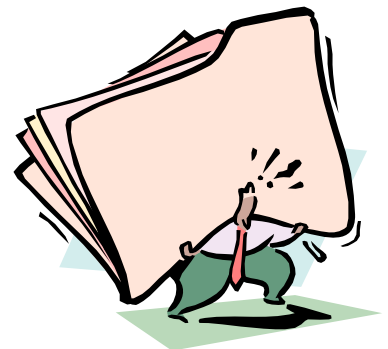
You can contact us at the address, telephone number, FAX number, and E-mail located in the sidebar.

If you have any information you would like posted in the Fall 2006/ Winter 2007 Newsletter, please contact Sherri Moorer by telephone or E-mail with your information.

SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council

We would like to thank the members of the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council for their continued dedication and hard work. The Soil Classifiers Advisory Council meets twice a year to review issues affecting the field in this state. The council members are:

- Robert T. Eppinette of Lowcountry Soil Consultants in Walterboro, SC.
- John H. Thorp of Silva-Soils Consulting in Sullivan's Island, SC.
- Charles M. Ogg of USDA—NRCS in Bishopville, SC.
- Bill R. Smith of Clemson University in Clemson, SC.
- Michael Lance Brewington of Piedmont Soils and Wetlands in Buffalo, SC.



Thanks for your service!